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NONFERROUS ENTERPRISES COMPLETE YEAR PLANS; KAZAKH MINING INDUSTRY NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

In December and early January, reports from nonferrous metallurgical enterprises were chiefly concerned with completion by individual plants of year plans and, in some cases, of the postwar Five-Year Plan, as well as with the increased mechanization in some mines. The Kazakh mining industry as a whole was taken to task for its low labor productivity. An editorial in Kazakhstanskaya Pravda points out that:

In order that the potentialities of the great resources of the Kazakh mining enterprises may be completely realized and that the mining of ore may rise steadily, it is first necessary to increase sharply the labor productivity of the miners. The correct organization of labor in the mines depends to a great extent on the uninterrupted supply of ore to metallurgical plants.

Leading enterprises have made tremendous achievements in the drive for increased labor productivity. At the Kounrad Copper Mine, Karaganda Oblast, the average production per worker in 1950 increased 30 percent. The mine greatly exceeded the 1950 plan. This success is the result of the adoption and adherence to a strict schedule covering all operations and processes.

In the last 3 years, labor productivity at the Achisay Mine of the Achisay Polymetallic Combine, Yuzhno-Kazakhstan Oblast, has increased more than 100 percent. An important factor in this rise was the conversion to the work organization employing complex brigades. Each brigade is composed of miners of various skills and, working one stope or several, the brigade is so organized that it can handle all phases of mining, from drilling to hauling. The miners in the brigade work interdependently, so there is no loss of time between operations. The conversion of the work organization to this scheme has made possible a sharp decrease in idleness and an increase in ore output with less expenditure of manpower.

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Many Kazakh mining enterprises, however, are lagging far behind the goal set by the state for increasing labor productivity. At the Tekeli Mine of the Tekeli Polymetallic Combine, Taldy-Kurgan Oblast, the work organization is so poor that miners cannot easily meet their norms. Grishin, director of the Tekeli Combine, and Rozenblyum, chief of the mine, are responsible for this lack of planning and the mass idleness of the miners.

Despite the drive made by certain complex brigades at the Leninogorsk Mine to mine 1,000 tons of ore per brigade per month, the possibilities of this drive for achieving a general increase in output by all miners at the mine are not being realized. The mine's directors are more interested in increasing the staff of miners than in increasing their skills.

Every mine director must make sure that conditions are such that each worker can meet his norms without difficulty and improve production quality. The party organizations' task at the mines is to investigate more thoroughly the organization of work, to take a decisive stand against conservatism in mine administration, and to do away with the antimechanization attitude on the part of some mine directors.(1)

The above editorial also cites the lag at the Mirgalimsay Mine of the Achisay Polymetallic Combine. A detailed study of this lag was given in the following report from the mine itself.

The mining of ore at the Mirgalimsay Mine is increasing at a very fast rate. However, the directors of the mine and of the Achisay Polymetallic Combine, in appraising the operation of the mine, seem interested only in the high percentage of this increase. It is quite apparent that a comparison of the current volume of ore mining with the indexes for previous years should not be the only guide by which the work of the mine is evaluated. The inner reserves of the enterprise must also be considered. These reserves at the Mirgalimsay Mine are exceptionally great. Despite the increase in output, tremendous possibilities remain untouched. The organization of work in the mine rarely keeps pace with the increasing level of mechanization and the widening front of the work.

Many new machines, loaders, scraper winches, electric locomotives, etc., have made their appearance in the mine in recent years. The share of mechanized loading of the ore in driving operations in 1950 had increased from 11 percent in 1949 to 41 percent, mechanized underground haulage of ore from 59 to 85 percent, and mechanized haulage of ore on the surface from 61 to 100 percent.

Mechanization of labor-consuming operations is usually followed by an increase in labor productivity. The reverse is the case at Mirgalimsay. In 1950, the average mining of ore per worker was 97.1 percent of the 1949 index. Average labor productivity per worker in the underground group decreased 12 percent. The 1950 plan for labor productivity was not fulfilled. In 1949, 74 workers did not meet the norms, while in 1950, the number of miners not meeting norms had increased to 94.

The decrease in labor productivity can be explained by the fact that the machine equipment is not being operated at full capacity. Rusanov, director of the mine, and Fedorov, chief engineer, are conservative in their attitude toward new equipment and new technology and do not want to change the existing organization of work to meet the new conditions. A good example of this is mine transport. The old tracks, answering the demands of hand transport, are not being remodeled to handle electric locomotive haulage at high speeds. The conversion to electric locomotive haulage should have been preceded by an organizational and technical overhaul of the work of mine transport, alteration of the old tracks, and revision of the track repair system. The locomotives have not

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even been put on an operating schedule, with the result that mine transport has developed into a bottleneck and has continual interruptions. Productivity per electric locomotive is as low as 37 ton-kilometers per shift. The number of workers employed in haulage has not decreased since the first quarter 1949 when the mine had only two electric locomotives, whereas now it has many new ones in operation.

There is formalism also in the charge-over from the use of deep drill holes instead of shallow. Nothing has been done to solve the technical problems connected with this new method. There is no control over the depth and direction of the holes. Many of the rooms have been put out of operation for a long time because the mine directors did not consider that deep drilling can be done only in rooms having solid surrounding rock. No attempt has been made to use combined deep and shallow drilling. This has led to an extremely low labor productivity in the sector using deep drilling. Three times more manpower is used in this sector in preparing the rooms for mining and in delivering the ore than is used in the other sectors.

The same conditions prevail in the mechanization of loading in the advance workings. Pneumatic loading machines have been brought in, but there has been no provision for the supply of compressed air at the necessary pressure. While the capacity of the compressors installed at the mine is way above the demand for compressed air, the air main is in bad repair and almost half of the compressed air is wasted before it gets to the work area. The delay in laying rails for the loading machines has been another factor in their low productivity.

Rusanov and Fedorov persistently adhere to the outmoded and primitive organization of work. There is no system used in mining operations and no planning ahead. The rooms are worked unsystematically, with miners being switched from room to room without finishing their work. As a result, the productivity of the rooms is three times lower than the planned level. The capacity of the scraper conveyers is only one third used. There has been no accurate calculation of idle time. In November, drillers spent only 57 percent of their time in drilling; 25 percent was lost in idleness which could have been avoided, 12 percent was spent in work which drillers are not scheduled to do, and 6 percent was spent in sorting ore.

The combine's directors are also at fault in not attempting to overcome the serious shortcomings of the mine. Pichenyuk, director of the combine, rarely visits the mine. He and Kharitonov, chief engineer, are concerned only with the high percent of increase in ore output as compared with previous years, and are not concerned with the tremendous reserves which should be utilized.(2)

Despite the inefficient organization of labor, the following plan achievements were reported:

The Leninogorsk Mine of the Leninogorsk Polymetallic Combine has completed ahead of schedule the 1950 plan for mining ore. Many changes are now being put into effect at the mine. Mechanized loading of ore is being introduced. Many winches are already in operation.(3)

The Achisay Mine of the Achisay Polymetallic Combine has completed the Five-Year Plan and the 1950 year plan ahead of schedule.(4)

The Ust'-Kamenogorsk Zinc Plant (director, A. Vartanyan), Vostochno-Kazakhstan Oblast, completed the 1950 plan. In comparison with 1949, zinc smelting has increased greatly. The plant obtained more than 5 million rubles in accumulations above plan.(5)

Miners and concentration workers of the Zyryanovsk Mine Administration, Vostochno-Kazakhstan Oblast, have exceeded the 1950 plan for mining and processing the ore.(6)

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Kazakh copper enterprises have also reported completion of plans. The Karsakpay Copper-Smelting Plant of the Dzhezkazgan Combine, Karaganda Oblast, completed the 1950 plan ahead of schedule.(7) On 1 December, Dzhezkazgan miners completed ahead of schedule the 1950 year plan for mining copper ore.(8) The Vostochno-Kounrad Mine, Karaganda Oblast, has completed the 1950 plan ahead of schedule. In 11½ months, the mine saved more than 1½ million rubles of state funds.(9)

The Balkhash Copper-Smelting Plant completed the Five-Year Plan for production of blister copper.(10) The Irtysh Copper Smelting Plant was the first among metallurgical plants in Vostochno-Kazakhstan Oblast to complete the Five-Year Plan. On 16 December, the plant began its first melt toward the 1951 plan. Labor productivity has increased 20 percent over 1949 and more than 2 million rubles have been saved since the beginning of the year.(11)

The Balkhash Rolled Nonferrous Metal Plant completed ahead of schedule the Five-Year Plan for production output. This year the plant has saved more than 1,300,000 rubles of state funds.(12)

In the Armenian SSR, A. Kntekhtsyan, chief engineer of the "Armed" (Armenian Copper) Trust, reports that the Kafan Concentration Plant, working ore from the Kafan copper deposit, has achieved a record for metal recovery in the flotation of copper ores among all USSR concentration plants. With the reverberatory furnace and electrolysis shop of the Alaverdi Copper-Smelting Plant, a full metallurgical cycle has been attained here.

In 1951, all mining processes will be mechanized. Hand ore haulage, in particular, will be completely eliminated. Wet drilling will be extensively adopted. There will be a greater increase in the rate of prospecting and development work and in discovering and developing new sectors of the deposit. There should also be a further improvement in the technical and economic indexes for the copper-smelting plant, particularly in the recovery of copper from ore and concentrates.(13)

On 31 December, the Alaverdi Copper-Smelting Plant completed the 1950 plan for the entire metallurgical cycle. The converter division and the electrolysis shop (chief, V. Isakov) were leaders in the competition. In 1950, the workers successfully adopted production of pure ingots of electrolytic copper for rolling and are now completely meeting the increasing demands of the republic's electrical industry.(14)

In the Urals, the Verkhnyaya Pyshma Electrolytic Copper Plant, Sverdlovsk Oblast, completed the Five-Year Plan for production of refined copper by 1 November. The plant completed the 1950 production plan for all categories of production on 26 December.(15)

The Blyavinskiy Mine, Chkalov Oblast, has completed ahead of schedule the 1950 and Five-Year plans. All basic underground work in the mine has been completely mechanized. On the surface, excavators, cranes, and automatic loaders are used in loading ore on railroad cars. In 1950, labor productivity increased 52 percent over the 1946 level.(16)

The Ural Aluminum Plant and the Severoural'sk Bauxite Mines, Sverdlovsk Oblast, have completed the 1950 plan ahead of schedule.(17)

The Metallurgical Combine imeni Frunze (director, A. Drozdov), Kadamzhay, Kirgiz SSR, has made particularly great strides in the postwar period. In comparison with the prewar period, output of industrial production has increased more than seven times. During the postwar period new types of production have been introduced. As early as 1949, the combine had exceeded the production level planned for 1950. On 18 December, the combine fulfilled the

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year plan for all production indexes.(18) The combine's metallurgical plant (director, Shiyarov) achieved even greater success, completing the 1950 plan on 10 December. Miners, transport workers, and builders at the combine have also made tremendous achievements this year.(19) In 11 months of 1950, labor productivity of miners increased 14.3 percent over 1949, as compared with the planned 5 percent. This increase is the result of increased mechanization of labor-consuming operations.

During the postwar Five-Year Plan, more than 4 million rubles have been spent on improving the workers' settlement. During this time, 3,340 square meters of housing were put into service and 33 one-apartment individual houses for workers were built. The combine's director's fund, used to build housing and improve living conditions for workers, was 480,000 rubles in 1949 and totaled 423,000 rubles in 9 months of 1950. These funds will be used to build houses and production and community enterprises.(18)

SOURCES

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